

REMARKSSUMMARY

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-77 were rejected in the above-identified final Office Action. Claims 1-77 remain pending in the application.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's consideration in "Response to Arguments," item 7 on page 15, of the Applicants' Response filed October 12, 2005.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102," item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified final Office Action, claims 1, 17-20, 34-36, 52-59, and 73-77 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,747,578 to *Lam, et al.* (hereinafter "Lam") under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites, in "a base portion of an electronic apparatus, a method of operation comprising:

detecting for presence of a removably attached interchangeable cover;
authenticating the removably attached interchangeable cover as an eligible cover; and
operating the electronic apparatus, enabling/disabling all or selected
functions/features offered by the base portion and the removably attached
interchangeable cover in view of whether the removably attached
interchangeable cover is authenticated."

In contrast, Lam simply teaches an "integrated removable functional faceplate for a portable computer system." The faceplate employs "specially located electrical contacts or pads that mate with similarly located electrical contacts mounted on the portable computer system." The electrical contacts carry signals that are "responsive to the pressing of physical buttons which may be placed in any location on the functional faceplate." Also taught by

Lam is the placement on the faceplate of an optional identification means coupled to an electrical contact. The means is capable of communicating a code to the portable computer system indicating the faceplate's identity or type. The communicated code can help the portable computer system to interpret signals sent by the faceplate.

Accordingly, Lam fails to disclose, expressly or inherently, any sort of eligibility authentication process to determine whether the detected faceplate is eligible for use with the portable computer system. The identification taught by Lam simply does not equate to authentication using the identification signal sent. While an identification signal may well be used for authentication, no authentication process is even hinted at by Lam, and the mere receipt of an identification signal and its use in processing faceplate signals requires no authentication operation. Further, nowhere does Lam mention any sort of processing of the identification information to determine whether the faceplate is of the sort considered "eligible." Lam does not have any teaching on the concept of the eligibility of a removable faceplate to modify the operation of a computer system. Accordingly, no "eligiblity" authentication can occur because the portable computer system of Lam makes no determination of whether the faceplate is "eligible."

It further follows that Lam fails to teach the enabling/disabling of all or selected functions/features offered by the base portion and cover in view of whether the cover is authenticated to be eligible or not, since the operation of authentication is never made.

Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly patentable over Lam.

Claims 36 and 59 include language similar to claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 36 and 59 are patentable over Lam.

Claims 17-20, 52-58, and 73-77 depend from claims 1, 36, and 59, incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 17-20, 52-58, and 73-77 are patentable over Lam.

Claim 34-35 depend from independent claim 21. Claim 21 was not rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated by Lam. Thus, for at least the same reasons that claim 21 is patentable over Lam, claims 34-35 are also patentable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103," item 5 on page 7 of the above-identified final Office Action, claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 21-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, 48-51, 60-65, and 68-72 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,153,919 to *Reeds, III et al.* (hereinafter "Reeds") under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). For at least the reasons previously provided, Applicant traverses.

Reed fails to cure the above discussed deficiencies of Lam. Therefore, claims 1, 21, 36, and 59 remain patentable over Lam even when combined with Reeds.

Claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 22-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, 48-51, 60-65, and 68-72 depend from claims 1, 21, 36, and 59 incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 22-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, 48-51, 60-65, and 68-72 are patentable over Lam in view of Reeds, alone or in combination.

2. In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103," item 6 on page 13 of the above-identified final Office Action, claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, 47, and 66-67 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lam and Reeds in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,784,463 to *Chen, et al.* (hereinafter "Chen") under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). For at least the reasons previously provided, Applicant traverses.

Reeds and Chen, alone or in combination, fail to cure the above discussed deficiencies of Lam. Therefore, claims 1, 21, 36, and 59 remain patentable over Lam even when combined with Reeds, Chen, or both.

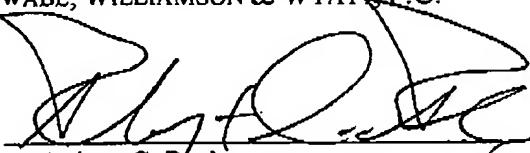
Claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, 47, and 66-67 depend from claims 1, 21, 36, and 59, incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, 47, and 66-67 are patentable over Lam and Reeds in view of Chen.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-77 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1513. If any fees are due in connection with this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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